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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

April 14, 1947

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TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #10

Annual Summary for 1946. The annual summary of Extension Farm Labor program for 1946 has been completed and soon will be sent to state offices for distribution. Total farm labor placements in 1946 were 38 percent less than in 1945, while the number of individuals placed in farm jobs was only 14 percent less. Elimination or reduction of POWs and foreign workers from the agricultural work force was responsible for some of the shift in 1946 to a longer work period per job and fewer placements per worker.

Copy and lay-outs for Central (14-state) Harvest Guide have received final dressing up in Extension Information offices and have been sent on the way to Government Printing Office. Delivery to states should be made about mid-May. The VFFV general recruiting poster was distributed to states April 4.

Skuli Rutford, assistant director, Minnesota, writes: "We have now passed the half-way mark in schedules of dates of labor-saving and safety shows....From the beginning, shows have had excellent publicity. Communities have participated to an extent that we have seldom enjoyed before, and farm families have turned out in numbers. While we have held shows in armories and auditoriums, crowds have been too large for best presentation of materials. In each case we have tried to split crowd three ways by running movies on farm safety and labor saving in two separate places so only a part of the group would be viewing exhibit....Our biggest problem has been to service the caravan with sufficient specialist help to meet crowds effectively. Attendance has been so much above expectation that it has called for more specialists than we had anticipated. Attendance to date totals 63,850 (at 24 stops; 19 more showings scheduled)."

From Washington, State Supervisor Zuger includes this "stitch in time" idea in his April 1 Farm Labor News letter: "In order to preclude any misunderstandings of interested people, we are requesting all counties using Mexican Nationals to issue periodic news releases telling where they are working, the number in the county, and the kinds of work they are doing. Our reasons for this request are that there are so many Texas Mexicans now in the state and others coming, persons not knowing the facts can easily mistake them for Nationals. Further, we feel it will help to show the trends toward increased use of domestic workers."

Wisconsin has just sent copies of its printed Farm Labor program report for 1943-46--a swell presentation of the job done in the Badger state. It is a 36-page (6 by 9) publication (Circular 371), in black and white on slick paper that makes 20 good photographs and a camp map, literally talk. After taking off with a statement on the situation back in late '42 and early '43, and the launching of the program, Supervisor Arlie Mucks modestly tells a running story of contri-

butions made by farm families, draft-age boys who were deferred, nonfarm volunteers from towns and cities, extension workers, migrants, other interstate and foreign workers, and prisoners of war. He closes with a report on the labor-saving caravans and the shift to peacetime conditions. Wisconsin has made a distribution to state farm labor supervisors in other states. Those who have not prepared a printed 4-year report will find the Wisconsin publication full of good ideas on how to do it.

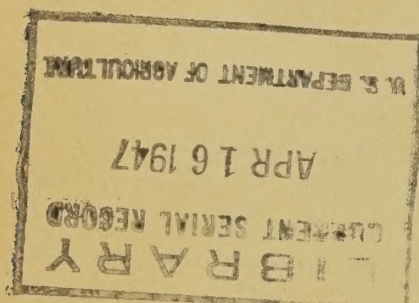
"Save Work in Doing Dairy Chores" is title of a new slidefilm prepared by Labor Utilization Division. A copy of this slidefilm (No. 674) together with lecture notes was sent to extension editors last week.

Nebraska reports 6,525 attended 17 showings of their "March of Machines Day" programs, with 10 more showings yet to be held. These programs, bringing to the farmers the latest on sugar beet producing methods, are sponsored by Extension Service, railroads, farm machinery companies, local dealers, and chambers of commerce. Like programs were also held in neighboring Colorado and Wyoming.

County farm labor offices in 30 Illinois counties are being designated as information centers for migratory labor. More than 400 roadside signs are being prepared at the state office to direct migrants to these centers. In discussing this activity and Illinois participation in the preparation and distribution of the 14-state Central Harvest Guide, Supervisor Murphy's State Farm Labor news letter says: "....this type of information service by Extension Farm Labor is the most practical way to be helpful to growers of special crops in securing necessary agricultural workers for short periods of time."

"Attendance far exceeded expectations. Instead of expected hundreds, there were thousands at many places. One specialist who had labored along with it said: 'I'm afraid this thing has grown into an annual event.'" This is the comment of J. M. Eleazer, South Carolina extension editorial writer, in an article on South Carolina's farm labor-saving shows in April's National County Agent and Extension Review.

From New Jersey's State Farm Labor Supervisor Taylor we are receiving an interesting series of circular letters used by county agents in publicizing farm labor meetings. All are mimeographed jobs, in which the "pull" is increased through the use of clever sketches. The New Jersey Farm Labor staff also is getting a lift from the State Department of Labor's Migratory division, through circulars and other material developed by Supervisor John Gurney Scholl, an old-time newsman. Recently it sparked an early "clean up the camp" drive in an effort to have everything spick-and-span when the migrants arrive.



Yours very truly,

Meredith C. Wilson

Meredith C. Wilson
Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program

(Copy to: State supervisors)